

Coins

\$2 bill and the vanishing cent: Collectors' feedback is heard

By Roger Boye

SEVERAL READERS have written me about recent items on the little-used \$2 bill and the elimination of the cent.

For example, Albert L. Keirns of Temple City, Cal., says it is ridiculous for the government to continue making the "obsolete \$1 bill."

"What can you buy for \$1, a pack of cigarettes?" he asks. As for the complaint of some people that the \$2 bill may be confused with a \$20 bill, Keirns says: "If that was true, the same thing would apply to the \$5 bill being confused with the \$50 bill. That doesn't make sense."

A former Chicago resident now living in Keokuk, Ia., is concerned about several pre-1959 Lincoln cents in her possession.

"I'm puzzled about what to do with them, with all this penny talk I've heard," she writes.

If the cent is eliminated [and such a decision, if it ever comes, is probably years away], the cent will remain a collector's item. In fact, the publicity surrounding such an event probably would make the cent an even more popular item with collectors.

Thus, there is no reason to sell a cent collection just because of the recent Treasury Department discussions about the usefulness of the cent.

Letters from some other readers will be reviewed in future weeks.

SOME OF THE prices listed in the just-published third edition of "Coins of the World 1750-1850" are more than 10 times higher than the prices in the 1971 second edition.

This basic coin collector reference by William D. Craig, used by almost all serious world coin collectors, also has many new listings and photographs. The book has 480 pages, compared with 448 pages in the 1971 second edition.

It can be purchased in most coin and hobby stores for \$12.95, or it can be ordered for \$13.95 [the extra dollar for shipping] from the publisher, Western Publishing Co., Inc., Dept. M., Racine, Wis. 53404.

IF YOU WANT to join the nation's largest organization of coin collectors, there are people ready to help you.

The 30,500-member American Numismatic Association has named its "ANA representatives," persons who can answer membership questions and provide application blanks.

The representatives in the three-state area are Richard Anderson, 240 Main St., Menasha, Wis. 54952; Allen C. Eichenold, 2044 N. 77th Court, Elmwood Park, Ill. 60635; Sterling Harrison, P.O. Box 2115, Evansville, Ind. 47714; Richard Hartzog, P.O. Box 4143, Rockford, Ill. 61110; Don Hudson, 609 Ashford Dr., Indianapolis, Ind. 46224; and Kurt Krueger, 103 E. Kimberly Av., Kimberly, Wis. 54136.